

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9 and 14-16, and add new claim 18, as follows:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) An improved body element for use in a modular prosthetic stem component of the sort comprising a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection, wherein said body element comprises:

an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element, whereby said body element approximates a general wedge shape;

wherein said body element further comprises a lateral aspect extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall;

wherein said body element further comprises a medial aspect extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall;

wherein said lateral aspect and said medial aspect are generally parallel to one another;

wherein said body element comprises a generally trapezoidal configuration; and

wherein vertices of said body element have a rounded configuration.

10. (previously presented) An improved body element according to claim 9 wherein said anterior wall is substantially flat.

11. (previously presented) An improved body element according to claim 9 wherein said posterior wall is substantially flat.

12. (previously presented) An improved body element according to claim 9 wherein said lateral aspect is substantially flat.

13. (previously presented) An improved body element according to claim 9 wherein said medial aspect is substantially flat.

14. (currently amended) An improved modular prosthetic stem component comprising:

a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection;

~~and further~~ wherein said body element comprises an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element, whereby the body element approximates a general wedge shape; and

wherein said body element comprises a lateral wall and a medial wall extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall, said lateral wall and said medial wall being generally parallel to one another;

said body element comprising a generally trapezoidal configuration; and

vertices of said body element having a rounded configuration.

15. (currently amended) An improved prosthetic total hip joint comprising:

a modular prosthetic stem component and a prosthetic acetabular cup component, wherein said modular prosthetic stem component comprises a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection;

and further wherein said body element comprises an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element, whereby said body element approximates a general wedge shape;

wherein said body element comprises a lateral wall and a medial wall extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall, said lateral wall and said medial wall being generally parallel to one another;

said body element comprising a generally trapezoidal configuration; and

vertices of said body element having a rounded configuration.

16. (currently amended) An improved method for restoring a hip joint, said method comprising:

providing an improved prosthetic total hip joint comprising:

a modular prosthetic stem component and a prosthetic acetabular cup component, wherein said modular prosthetic stem component comprises a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection;

wherein said body element comprises an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element, whereby said body element approximates a general wedge shape;

wherein said body element comprises a lateral wall and a medial wall extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall, said lateral wall and said medial wall being generally parallel to one another;

said body element comprising a generally trapezoidal configuration; and

vertices of said body element having a rounded configuration; and

deploying said improved prosthetic total hip joint in ~~the~~ a patient.

17. (previously presented) A body element for use in a modular prosthetic stem component comprising a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection, wherein said body element comprises:

an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element; and

said body element further comprising a lateral wall and a medial wall extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall, said lateral and medial walls being generally parallel to each other; and

wherein vertices of said body element have a rounded configuration.

18. (New) An improved body element for use in a modular prosthetic stem component of the sort comprising a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and

said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection, wherein said body element comprises:

an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element, whereby said body element approximates a general wedge shape;

wherein said body element further comprises a lateral aspect extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall;

wherein said body element further comprises a medial aspect extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall;

wherein said body element comprises a generally trapezoidal configuration;

wherein vertices of said body element have a rounded configuration; and

wherein said medial aspect is substantially flat.